

Application No. 10/604,137
Docket No. A3-1641
Amendment dated September 29, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 29, 2004

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-20 of the above-identified US Patent Application, with the result that all of the claims were allowed but the specification and claims were objected to. In response, Applicant has amended the specification as set forth above. More particularly:

A substitute abstract is submitted herewith that omits the title of the invention originally placed at the top of the as-filed abstract. This amendment addresses the Examiner's first ground for objecting to the specification.

The specification has been amended at paragraph [0009]¹ to correct clerical errors involving the unintended omission of "-skid" when describing the materials for the base 20 and shooting markers 24, the result of which was the use of the word "nonmaterial" instead of "non-skid material." Applicant believes that this amendment does not constitute new matter because rubber matting (cited as example materials for the base 20 and markers 20) is, in fact, a well known non-skid material. This amendment addresses the Examiner's second ground for objecting to the specification.

The specification has also been amended at paragraphs [0009] and [0010] to

¹ While the Examiner cited paragraph [0010] as containing the clerical error at issue, the paragraph containing the clerical error is [0009] in Applicant's copy of the electronically-filed application (which was simultaneously produced by the same authoring software (PASAT) as the Examiner's copy).

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capitalize the word "velcro" and accompany the word with generic terminology for this type of fastener. This amendment addresses the Examiner's third ground for objecting to the specification.

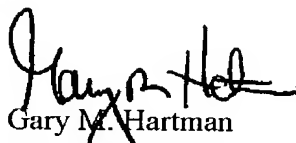
Applicant submits herewith copies of the pages produced by the patent application authoring software (PASAT) when Applicant's application was electronically generated and filed. The Examiner will note that the authoring software, not Applicant, is solely responsible for placing an identifier at the beginning of each claim, e.g., [c1], etc. Because the appropriate identifiers are present on Applicant's copy of the application (as evident from the attached), Applicant must presume that the same identifiers are present on the Examiner's copy of the application, since both Applicant's copy and the Examiner's copy were simultaneously authored by the same software. Applicant believes that this explanation addresses the ground for the Examiner's objection to the claims.

Applicant believes that the above amendments do not present new matter. Applicant respectfully requests that his patent application be given favorable reconsideration.

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Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicant's representative may be reached at (219) 462-4999.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Gary M. Hartman
Reg. No. 33,898

September 29, 2004
Hartman & Hartman, P.C.
Valparaiso, Indiana 46383
TEL.: (219) 462-4999
FAX: (219) 464-1166

Attachments: Copies of Pages 5 through 8 of Applicant's electronically filed specification; Substitute Abstract